United Nations S/2001/442

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 4 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia issued on 3 May 2001 by the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

01-36127 (E) 040501 040501

Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia issued on 3 May 2001 by the European Union

The European Union strongly condemns the renewed acts of violence by ethnic Albanian extremists in the northern region of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including the killing of two soldiers, the occupation of several villages and the taking of hostages. The European Union calls upon the extremists to stop the violence, to release the hostages and withdraw immediately.

The European Union emphasizes its continuing strong support for the process of inter-ethnic dialogue that was recently launched by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The latest provocations underline the need for the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue to show restraint and for leaders of all political parties to support the process of peaceful dialogue, to isolate extremists, to condemn the violence and to urge their supporters to remain calm. The European Union condemns the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence from whatever quarter.

The Union also urges ethnic Albanian leaders in Kosovo and political leaders in Albania to condemn unambiguously these acts of terrorism and to use their influence to prevent the violence, which threatens the stability of the whole region.